



**City of Kingston  
Conservation Advisory Council  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2010**

**Roll call:** 6:40 pm

**In attendance:**

**Board Members:**

Judith Deming  
Felipa Gaudet  
Valeria Gheorghiu  
Julie Noble  
Gregg Swanzey

**Guests:**

Alderman Hayes Clement  
Sophie Dolamore  
Bill More  
Casey Schwartz  
Alderman Bob Senior

**Public Comment:**

Bill More – six large ducks were found wandering on Main Street in uptown Kingston

**Approval of Minutes:**

February (modified), March and March special meeting – postponed until later in the meeting

**Administrative Matters:**

1. Valeria resigned from the Secretary position. All accepted by unanimous vote.
2. Allison nominated Felipa to fill Secretary position. Judith second. All in favor.

**Old Business:**

1. Domestic animal legislation –
  - a. Cat issue –
    - i. Bob Senior requested CAC look into issue of feral cats in city. Our city's ordinances do not currently mention cats. Included with Bob Senior's letter was other municipalities' cat legislation, which included limits on number of cats per resident, limiting cats' roaming, etc. Current language exists in our city's legislation regarding dogs. Hayes Clement believes that dogs are currently held for 48 hours, then brought to the SPCA.
    - ii. Bob Senior explained the background for the issue. A woman in his neighborhood was feeding seventeen feral cats that were bothering neighbors. They were lying on people's porches and eliminating in their yards. Senior is also concerned that 400 million birds are killed each year by stray cats. Senior shared that dog licenses are not currently kept current in the city despite legislation, so he believes that licensing of cats will not be enforceable. He suggested that legislation could include language that cats that are not wearing collars could be picked up. Currently, Marie Post is the woman who is paid by the city to trap the cats. Once trapped, they are spayed or neutered, then either adopted or released in the area where they were picked up.

- iii. Allison shared her research regarding effective strategies for dealing with stray cats. One trap per city is not sufficient. More money and people trapping are necessary. Other municipalities charge a licensing fee to cat owners and the revenue is used to pay for the trap and release program.
    - iv. Bill More suggested ordinance regarding feeding of stray cats, as the state had an ordinance against feeding deer and using nuisance law.
    - v. Julie asked if other wards were affected. Bob Senor replied that Alderman Bill Reynolds's ward and South Wall Street have had similar problems with feral cats.
    - vi. Julie suggested contacting Marie Post to ask her about her work for the city and representatives from other municipalities. She also suggested reaching out to the SPCA and dog warden regarding current process and the feasibility of possible future efforts. Judith will contact the dog warden and Marie Post. Bob Senor wants recommendations within a month because residents have expressed that they will trap the cats with Have a Heart traps. Bill More suggested adding language regarding other residents' actions trapping the stray cats. Valeria will contact local animal rights groups to gather their recommendations. Bill More will research state law regarding trapping.
    - vii. Judith expressed concerns that a cat that pulls collar off could be trapped and euthanized. Concerns were expressed regarding the enforceability of the legislation.
  - b. Chickens: Valeria has information to be distributed to the public about the law regarding chickens. She and Allison will review it and send it to the group for feedback.
  - c. Gregg suggested we look at the animal legislation issue from various angles and examine each animal in depth before making suggestions
  - d. Recommendations for cat legislation will be determined at next month's meeting.
- 2. Climate Smart Pledge – Overall feedback – Bill was impressed with turn out, reports, etc. Feedback from community members was positive.
  - a. Wrap up from meeting -
    - i. Data compilation –
      - 1. Jennifer Schwartz sent out link to invite members to a blog site, Ning, for members.
      - 2. In Valeria's group, Susan Ganzer offered to compile database, Facebook, Twitter for pledge. Also, Worker's Rights group will be having forum in midtown and will give the CAC time to share pledge with public.
      - 3. Someone in Gregg's group offered to compile data as well.
      - 4. Judith summarized her group's session. The Bard students in her group are currently formulating goals.
    - ii. Follow ups
  - b. Next Steps
    - i. Valeria will ask Susan Ganzer what her opinion is regarding long term electronic communication.
    - ii. Julie will look into translation of materials into Spanish. Bard students are looking into translations also.
    - iii. Felipa suggested we each e-mail our group thanking them for attending, sending our notes from meeting and group members' e-mail addresses. Julie suggested making the title of the e-mail recognizable regarding the pledge and suggested asking the following questions in the e-mail:
      - 1. Who was missing?
      - 2. How can we get them involved?
      - 3. Follow up meeting: Meeting dates and venues – (Was city hall appropriate? Other venues?)
    - iv. Valeria suggested that we look at our needs and tap into Bard students regarding actionable tasks and goals.

- v. Gregg suggested communicating with Jennifer Schwartz regarding her role and her students' roles, timetable of her courses. He will invite her to another meeting
- vi. Felipa shared some ideas that were generated by her group members to obtain the goal of including members of diverse groups within our pledge planning and implementation.
- vii. Valeria shared some ideas that were generated by her group members to obtain the goal of including members of diverse groups within our pledge planning and implementation: When talking about green jobs, do not talk about it in an elite manner. Outreach into schools – children will go home and share with their families what they learned in school. Mentoring within training programs in colleges, etc. Working with labor allies, partnerships.
- viii. CAC members will post our notes from our sessions on Ning. We will review each others' notes prior to our next meeting.
- c. Climate Analyst Position – description will be submitted to the mayor soon. When the funding arrives for the position, the person will be hired.
- d. Emilie Hauser – Using our pledge as a model, Kingston Library drafted Library's Climate Smart and Green Jobs Pledge, specific to library.
- 3. Fundraising – cell phones, ink cartridges, pagers. Allison will work on flyer and e-mail to others. We will take flyers and boxes to various 'green' businesses and ask if they will host collection sites for us.
- 4. Website – Finalized logo

#### **New Business: There was no new business**

#### **Announcements/Communications:**

- 1. NYSACC sent another bill.
- 2. Valeria - Maurice Hinchey hosting a meeting - ?
- 3. Allison – Sophie Finn signed up for Kingston Clean Sweep – Sophie will post at the high school. CAC members will go
- 4. Felipa will look into T-shirts with new logo– environmentally friendly printing.
- 5. Mohonk – Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 Program: Planning for Biodiversity: What Have We Got to Lose? A dialogue among developers, landowners, planners, and conservationists
- 6. Cornell Cooperative Extension – May 1 from 11:30 to 1:00 at Forsyth Nature Center and May 7 at Hutton Park between 5:00 and 7:00. GPS mapping workshop with the goal mapping safe routes for schools.
- 7. Kristin Wilson – hosting work party for Healthy Kingston Kids – possibilities for 10-10-10: Cleaning up rail trail behind Walgreens, planting fruit trees in parks, or garden celebration.
- 8. Valeria – Kingston Megalith, which is at entrance to Kingston Business Park – archeological importance– communicate with community about importance of site.

#### **Reports:**

- 1. EMC – Julie - Creek Week proposed for the fall – raise awareness of area creeks.
- 2. Planning Board – Judith-
  - a. Apartments on East Chester Street – neighbor complaining about lights
  - b. Linderman Street house – purchased and owner trying to divide into 5? Units. If only four units, does
  - c. CVS – realtor/investor not paying for traffic light changes. Instead, is putting \$25,000 in escrow. DOT will be making changes in 2014-2016. At first, will try with right turn in and right turn out for 40 days. Then, will go to 60 days allowing left turn in and left turn out onto Washington Avenue.
  - d. People putting in parking a common issue – Judith believes that the Planning Board needs information about permeable surfaces for parking. Valeria knows of an organization that can advise about permeable surfaces. Gregg shared about his involvement with Complete Streets in

Kingston. It was a complicated issue due to use of streets, biking, etc. The city continues to give waivers for parking, even though there is not enough parking available in the municipal lots.

3. General Government/Audit/ Public Safety Committee Meeting – March’s meeting was a special meeting on Public Safety only. The police chief shared new software programs and websites that can show residents where crimes have taken place in the city. Also, the founder of the Kingston Neighborhood Watch spoke and encouraged residents to walk more in their communities and meet their neighbors. The head of the Boys and Girls club spoke about the programs that are provided for the youth of Kingston.
4. Scheduling meetings for rest of month - CAC members will decide next month who will attend the following meetings:
  - a. Planning Board Meeting Scheduling: (Second Monday) July 12, August 9, Sept 13, Oct 18 - ?, Nov 15, Dec. 13
  - b. General Government: July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28,
5. Sophie’s application – Rules and Procedures would have to be modified to accept a new member before January. Felipa suggested that we modify the rules to enable student members to enter at various times of the year, due to their programs. The issue will be discussed during May’s meeting.
6. Allison made a motion to accept minutes from February and March meetings with a few revisions. Julie second. All in favor.
7. Facebook page – Sophie and Felipa will work on page for CAC together. Sophie will post information on the CAC’s Facebook page as needed.

**Adjournment:**

Valeria made a motion to adjourn. Julie second. All in favor. 9:17pm